

REMARKS

The present communication is filed in response to the Official Action mailed April 29, 2008 ("Official Action"). The shortened statutory period for filing a response having expired on July 29, 2008, Applicant submits herewith a One-Month Extension Petition to reset the deadline for response to the Office Action up to and including August 29, 2008. In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the telephone interview conducted by the Examiner with the undersigned on August 27, 2008. In the interview, the Examiner and the undersigned discussed various proposed amendments of claims 1, 9, and 17 in view of the prior art. Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendments are believed to be in line with the interview and further distinguish the claims over the prior art.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 3-7, 9, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0123681 A1 to Zuk et al. ("Zuk"). (Official Action 3-4.) Claims 2, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zuk in view of Cho (Foundations of Medical Imaging, Wiley Interscience, 1993), previously made of record. (*Id.* 4) Claims 8, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zuk in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,128,522 to Acker ("Acker"). (*Id.* 5)

Support for the foregoing amendments to the claims may be found by reference to, for example, FIG. 1 and its accompanying description.

Claims 1-16 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30 of U.S. Patent No. 6,414,490. Claims 1-22 are

rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,677,753. (Official Action 5-6)

Claim 1, as amended, now recites a patient support "being elongated along a first direction and mounted to a frame, said frame mounted to a fulcrum at a location substantially at the midpoint of said elevator frame, said fulcrum operable to rotate said frame about an axis". Applicant respectfully submits that *Zuk* does not teach at least this feature of claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 should now be allowed.

Claim 9, as amended, now recites in part a patient support "being elongated along a first direction and slidably mounted to an elevator frame, said elevator frame mounted to a carriage at a location substantially at the midpoint of said elevator frame, said patient support operable to slide relative to said elevator frame along said first direction". Applicant respectfully submits that *Zuk* does not teach at least this feature of claim 9. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 should now be allowed.

Claim 17, as amended, now recites in part a patient support a patient support "being mounted to an elevator frame, said elevator frame mounted to a carriage at a location substantially at the midpoint of said elevator frame, wherein said carriage moves on one or more rails along a horizontal direction". Applicant respectfully submits that *Zuk* does not teach at least this feature of claim 17. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 should now be allowed.

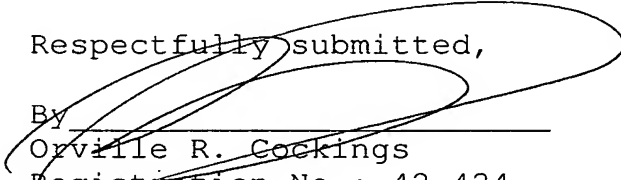
Additionally, all of the dependent claims should be allowed based on their dependency on allowable independent claims as discussed above.

With regard to Examiner's non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejections, Applicant submits that a terminal disclaimer is premature at this time in view of the present and potentially further amendment to the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections should be held in abeyance until the claims are allowed. As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: August 29, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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